

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): Apparatus for transfer of containers between a land-based vehicle ~~vehicles~~ and a dockside location, comprising: a wheeled conveyor moved to a position ~~means positioned~~ at said dockside location for ~~providing thereat three parallel spaced passage lanes~~; roller track means mounted on ~~extending through~~ the wheeled conveyor means for establishing thereon a central passage lane along which ~~supported~~ movement of the containers is effected between a pair of ~~along one of the end~~ passage lanes ~~disposed between in spaced relation to the other two of the central~~ passage lanes lane; and container spreader means mounted on the wheeled conveyor means for lateral guided displacement of the containers between said central ~~one of the~~ passage lanes lane established by the roller track means and the end ~~other two~~ passage lanes ~~paths~~ along which the land-based vehicle ~~vehicles~~ may travel without obstruction into the wheeled conveyor.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said wheeled conveyor means ~~is formed by~~ comprises: a central crane unit interconnected between opposite end crane units on which said container spreader means is mounted; and alignment guide means mounted on the central crane unit for operative positioning of the wheeled conveyor means at said dockside location.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said opposite end crane units respectively extend laterally beyond the central crane unit to establish the ~~other~~ two end passage lanes extending therethrough.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein ~~Apparatus for transfer of containers between land-based vehicles and a dockside location, comprising: wheeled conveyor means positioned at said dockside location for providing thereat three parallel spaced passage lanes; and roller track means extending through the conveyor means for supported movement of the containers along one of the passage lanes disposed between the other two of the passage lanes; said opposite end crane units respectively extend~~ extending laterally beyond the central crane unit to establish the ~~other two end~~ end passage lanes therethrough.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 3, including hopper guide means mounted on the central crane unit for vertical transfer of the containers to and from the wheeled conveyor ~~means~~ at said dockside location.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method for transfer of containers between a land-based vehicle ~~vehicles~~ and a dockside location, comprising the steps of: positioning a common track passage lane of predetermined length along which the containers are moved; establishing two parallel spaced passage lanes on opposite sides of the positioned common track passage lane along which the land-based vehicle ~~vehicles~~ may approach and depart without obstruction; laterally transferring the containers between the land-based vehicle ~~vehicles~~ and the positioned

Appln No. 10/650,679

Amendment in Reply to Office action dated June 10, 2005

common track passage lane at longitudinally spaced locations thereon; and transferring the containers to and from the positioned common track passage lane in a vertical direction at said dockside location ~~thereon~~ between said longitudinally spaced locations.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said land-based vehicle ~~vehicles are~~ is a truck ~~trucks~~ having a chassis on which the containers are carried; and said transferring of the containers in the vertical direction being effected by means of ~~effect~~ ~~through~~ a marine terminal crane at the dockside location.